

Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee will be at Sunshine House, in New Market on November 14, 2006 a 6:30 p.m. Directions are attached.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 LHRC MEETING

The September 12th meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at the Thomas J. Peachey Center, located in Front Royal, Virginia.

Members Present: Gretta Doering, Chair; Jean Snider; Fred Sabia; Mary Louise Mattingly; and Nancy Cartier

Others Present: Chuck Collins and Mark Seymour (Advocates); Mark Gleason (Liaison); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Clif MacDonald (Good Life Corporation); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Curt Sawyer (Shenandoah Family Homes); Kristian Sawyer (Shenandoah Family Homes); Connie K. (APTCH); Denise Wiitala (Bridging the Gaps); Holly Kyle (Rose Memorial); Ms. Murray (NW Works); Yvonne See (Community Alternatives of VA); Mickie Duncan (Shen-Paco); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge); Keith King (Grafton); Dot Royston (Heart Havens); and Gail Partlowe (NWCSB).

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Doering, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance, had everyone introduce themselves, and thanked Northwestern for hosting the meeting.

Meeting Minutes: After noting on the minutes of July 18th that we did not meet at the Winchester Medical Center, Ms. Snider made a motion to accept the minutes, Ms. Mattingly seconded, and the motion carried.

Public comments: There were no public comments.

Comments by Affiliates:

Need for Executive Session: Ms. Sawyer, Shenandoah Family Homes, requested an Executive Session as the matters she needed to discuss contained confidential client names and information.

Next Friend Appointments for Legally Authorized Representatives: Mr. Collins discussed the subject of "Next Friend-status" for Legally Authorized Representatives. It is incumbent upon the provider to make a decision if the client can make appropriate decisions for her/him self. The decision must be based upon an appropriate assessment. When a client cannot do so, a family member can be appointed as an Authorized Representative. If there is no family member available or willing to take on that

responsibility, a “Next Friend” can assume that role. This potential “Next Friend” must have known and provided some form of support (emotional or financial, for example) to the client for at least six months. There must be some reasonable connection between the individuals, and conflicts of interest must be ruled out (i.e: the person to be appointed cannot be an employee of the facility where the client lives).

Good Life Corporation asks that the LHRC consider making five Next Friend appointments at the next regularly scheduled meeting. This will occur on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at Sunshine House in New Market, Virginia. The LHRC will convene in Executive Committee at 6:00 p.m. The regular meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Collins indicated that provisions regarding these appointments may be found in the Blue Book on Pages 16 & 17. Mr. Collins requested from Mr. MacDonald that on each client he do a short synopsis and provide to Gail as soon as possible so the members can have that information prior to the November 14th meeting.

Advocate Update:

On the Northwestern LHRC: Mr. Collins expressed his gratitude to LHRC members and affiliated programs for their dedication to human rights protections. He noted how well the process is functioning in this region.

New Human Rights Regulations: Mr. Collins stated that the Governor signed off on the proposed changes to the Human Rights Regulations. They will not be finalized until the completion of a public comment period. There are 2 opportunities in our area to make comments; October 11th at the Valley CSB from 4:00 to 6:00 and also at the Government Center in Fairfax on November 9th from 6:00 to 8:00. These meetings will be only to comment on the new regulations.

There will be 1 or 2 people from the State Board for Human Rights present at each public comment meeting. Each person who chooses to speak will be given 5 minutes to comment or make suggestions about the new regulations. Mr. Collins said he has seen comments made during these meetings incorporated into the final draft.

LHRC Seminar: The LHRC seminar will probably be held in the spring. He will relay more information as he receives it.

Related Human Rights Issues: Mr. Collins showed an article from a newspaper in Charlottesville regarding the Whisper Ridge facility. That article had also appeared in papers in this area.

All human rights and critical incidents are reported to the advocates in a timely manner and he appreciated all the invitations to the various events.

Mr. Seymour discussed the efforts of both Timber Ridge and Grafton School in providing care or other interventions for students with medical concerns.

Program Reviewed:

Heart Havens – Dot Royston

Old Business:

NWCS Program Closure Updates: Mr. Gleason provided an update on the now closed Community House program. The new facility called “Our Family” is currently housed at the Salvation Army. NWCS and the City of Winchester are working to expand bus routes out to that site. Mr. Collins indicated that a similar facility in Charlottesville called “On Our Own” is not licensed but is funded by the state and therefore must comply with Human Rights regulations. There is an application process for the new program and is open for persons over the age of 18. NWCS is providing leadership support until the program membership is ready to run the program. Also James Madison University has taken over the Part C Program for the PIE Program. Part C is still using the facility at NWCS to provide evaluations and the children are still getting assessments and services are being provided.

New Business:

LHRC Budget: Mr. Gleason indicated that the LHRC budget is getting quite low, and will be asking each affiliate to forward a \$50.00 affiliation fee. These funds support the cost incurred by NWCS for mailings, refreshments, and seminars for the LHRC. NWCS has been withholding a bill due to the low funds. Mr. Collins stated that \$50.00 was a great deal considering other CSBs charge an average of \$250.00 per year.

Affiliation Agreements: The LHRC Affiliation Agreements for Providers will be updated and sent out to affiliates. A signed agreement must be returned to the LHRC. The affiliates were reminded that part of their responsibility is to notify the LHRC of any violations or citations they had received. This will be specifically addressed in the new affiliate agreements. Mr. Collins endorsed the LHRC’s ability to set affiliate requirements per page 41 of the Blue Book, #10.

Close of Meeting/Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2006 at the Sunshine House in New Market, VA. An executive session meeting will begin at 6:00 with the regular meeting beginning at 6:30. The January 9, 2007 meeting will be held at Grafton at the Ruth Birch facility.

Executive Session: Mr. Sabia motioned that the LHRC convene into closed session to discuss confidential client matters pursuant to the protection of privacy exemption as noted in Virginia Code section 2.2-3711 (A) (1). This was seconded by Ms. Mattingly and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Return from Executive Session:

Whereas, the LHRC has convened an executive session on this date pursuant to an affirmed recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the LHRC that such an executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved, that the LHRC hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE: 4 YES 0 NO

Other Business: Ms. Doering motioned that "A Place Called Home" be granted temporary LHRC affiliation upon recommendation of the Human Rights Committee Advocate, until the program's full affiliation status can be reviewed at the next meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Sabia and the motion was approved.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Gail R. Partlowe, NWCSB Administrative Assistant

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison